Coherent policy for fisheries sector

501. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite having a 7000 km. coastline for the country, spread across nine coastal States and several lakh fishermen depending on the fisheries sector for their livelihood, there is no coherent policy for the fisheries sector with any one particular agency designated for its implementation; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to formulate the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of SFAC in Maharashtra

502. SHRI BALAWANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing the Central Sector Scheme, namely, the setting up of Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Maharashtra has formed the State level SFAC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) is a public private initiative taken by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for bringing about and facilitating investments in the agri-business forms by way of venture capital fund. It was registered as a society on 18th January, 1994 under Societies Registration Act 1860. The promoter members of SFAC are Government of India, Reserve Bank of India, National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development, Industrial Development Bank of India, State Bank of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce and Export-Import Bank